Claims

1. A control system for controlling apparatus remotely in response to a variable which is independent of the system and has a changing value, which system comprises a sensor to sense the value of the variable, a radio transmitter associated with the sensor and operative to transmit a control signal representative of the sensed value of the variable, a radio receiver associated with the controlled apparatus and operative to receive the control signal, and a controller operative by receipt of the control signal to control the apparatus according to the value of the variable.

2. A control system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the controller is operative to change a parameter of the controlled apparatus as the value of the variable changes.

3. A control system as claimed in claim 2 wherein the controller is operative to change said parameter proportionately as the value of the variable changes.

4. A control system as claimed in claim 2 or claim 3 wherein said parameter is changed in direct relation to the value of the variable.

5. A control system as claimed in claim 2 or claim 3 wherein said parameter is changed in inverse relation to the value of the variable.

6. A control system as claimed in claim **5** wherein the controlled apparatus comprises one or more lamps of which said parameter is the light output thereof.

7. A control system as claimed in claim **6** wherein the variable is ambient light and the sensor comprises a photometer, the system being arranged to increase the light output from the lamps as incident light on the photometer decreases.

8. A control system as claimed in claim **6** wherein the sensor senses the presence of a person and the system is arranged to switch the lamps on, or increase the light output from the lamps, when the presence of a person is detected.

9. A control system as claimed in claim **7** or claim **8** including a timer operative to switch the lamps off, or reduce the light output from the lamp, a predetermined period after the time when the presence of a person is last sensed.

10. A control system as claimed in any of claims **6** to **9** wherein the controller comprises an adjustable ballast.

11. A control system as claimed in claim **5** wherein the variable is ambient temperature.

12. A control system as claimed in claim **11** wherein the apparatus comprises one or more heaters of which said parameter is the heat output thereof.

13. A control system as claimed in claim **12** wherein the sensor comprises a thermometer and the system is arranged to increase the heat output from the heaters as ambient temperature at the thermometer decreases.

14. A control system as claimed in any of claims **2** to **13** wherein said parameter is changed in a plurality of steps.

15. A control system as claimed in any preceding claim including a plurality of said sensors.

16. A control system as claimed in any preceding claim including a plurality of said controllers.

17. A control system as claimed in claim **15** or claim **16** wherein the or each controller is operative in response to control signals from more than one sensor.

18. A control system as claimed in claim **17** wherein the or each controller switches the controlled apparatus on, or increases its output, in response to a control signal from one said sensor and switches the

controlled apparatus off, or decreases its output, in response to a control signal from another said sensor.

19. A control system as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the or each control signal is a radio signal in the 868 MHz band.

20. A system for controlling apparatus substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as shown in the accompanying drawings.